

Doctoral INPhINIT *Incoming Call 2026* 'la Caixa' Fellowships in Experimental Particle Physics at IFAE Barcelona

The High Energy Physics Institute in Barcelona (IFAE-Barcelona) is offering PhD positions for talented Early-Stage Researchers within the framework of the Doctoral INPhINIT *Incoming Call 2026* “la Caixa” fellowships, in the fields of Particle Physics, Astroparticles, Cosmology, Gravitational Waves, Quantum Computing and Instrumentation R&D. In particular, in the context of Experimental Particle Physics, IFAE is offering the following project:

“Searches for new phenomena with the ATLAS detector at the LHC”

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IFAE maintains a strong presence in the ATLAS experiment at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC), with major responsibilities on the calibration and maintenance of the TileCal hadronic calorimeter and the Level-1 Topological Trigger system, and participates in the upgrade of the Pixel detector and the trigger system. The IFAE-ATLAS group has developed an exciting and broad research program that includes precision measurements of the top quark and the Higgs boson, and searches for new phenomena beyond the Standard Model (e.g., dark matter, supersymmetry, vector-like quarks, leptoquarks, additional light or heavy Higgs bosons, etc).

The successful PhD candidate will join the IFAE-ATLAS group and will participate in first-class research with the ATLAS detector. He/she will play a leading role in physics analysis using the full Run 2 and Run 3 datasets, and participate in the maintenance, operation and upgrade of the ATLAS detector.

These are 4-year PhD positions. On top of a competitive salary, the position offers a dedicated budget for conferences, courses, research stays, etc. In addition, the IFAE offers additional funds to attend schools or international workshops related to the PhD research topics.

Requirements:

In order to be accepted, candidates must meet the following eligibility requirements (for more details see the [Rules for participation](#)):

Nationality:

Young researchers of **any nationality** are eligible to apply for the Doctoral INPhINIT Incoming Fellowships Programme.

Studies pursued:

Applicants must hold a higher education degree that makes them eligible to enrol in a doctoral programme before starting at their host institutions.



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The host university will verify, upon starting the admission process to the doctoral programme, that the studies taken up by the selected candidates make them eligible to enrol in an official doctoral programme in accordance with the regulations in force in Spain or Portugal. Should they be found not eligible after verification, the fellowship will be withdrawn.

Candidates **must not have been enrolled in a doctoral programme prior to the start of the fellowship.**

Language proficiency:

Applicants must accredit their proficiency in the English language by submitting any of the accepted certificates. **Under no circumstances will any other certificate be accepted**, despite being issued by the same organisations and/or accredit equivalence with any of the accepted levels.

Research experience:

On the deadline for applications, applicants must still be within the **first four years** (full-time equivalent research experience) **of their research careers.**

Mobility:

Candidates **cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for more than twelve months in the three years immediately prior to the deadline for applications.**

Short stays, such as holidays, spent in a country other than their country of usual residence (where they carried out their main activity), will be considered as time spent in their country of usual residence.

Complete applications: Only candidates whose applications meet all the requirements of the call may be accepted.

Key dates:

Deadline for submitting applications:

January 28th, 2026, at 2 pm Peninsular Spain

Communication of the shortlist results and arrangement of interviews:

April 27th, 2026

Selection interviews:

May 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 2026

Communication of the final results:

May 29th, 2026

Access to the applications platform of "la Caixa" Foundation fellowships programme:

<https://fellowships.lacaixafoundation.org>

More information at:

<https://lacaixafoundation.org/en/doctoral-inphinit-fellowships-incoming-call>

For any questions, please visit the INPhINIT webpage above and/or contact the IFAE's Projects Office (projects@ifae.es).